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PUBLIC LIBRARY

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BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

May 1940

Officers and executive for 1939-40.

Honorary President	-	Hon. G.M. Weir
President	-	Dr. W. Kaye Lamb
Past President	-	Mr. E.S. Robinson
Vice-President	-	Mrs. Nina Napier
Secretary	-	Mrs. Adelaide Shaw
Treasurer	-	Miss J. Bramley

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS The Executive has held three meetings, on February 16th, March 19th and April 16th, at which they discussed plans for the convention on May 13th. They arranged for Mr. Richards to address the association, appointed some of the committees, received and read reports of the Standing Committees to be forwarded to the Publicity Committee for incorporation in the Bulletin, and purchased twenty-five copies of the newly published "Checklist of B.C. Government Documents" and stored them temporarily at the Provincial Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS The following are the reports of the Standing Committees of B.C.L.A. for the year 1939-40.

Documents Committee The work of the Documents Committee for the year 1939 has not been onerous.

The long-awaited checklist: "Publications of the government of British Columbia 1871-1937" was published in 1939, and the Committee feels that both the Provincial Library and the compiler, Sydney M. Weston, are to be congratulated on this useful and excellent piece of work.

Respectfully submitted,
Thressa A. Pollock, Chairman.

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Employment Committee: The Employment Committee has been functioning for the past six years. Its aims are to keep librarians and school superintendents informed regarding unemployed trained librarians in

British Columbia, to supply those seeking positions with a list of British Columbia libraries, and to assist them in every way possible to obtain positions.

Two card files are kept - a file for unemployed librarians, and one for those who have obtained positions, giving the date and place of the appointment. Information on these cards includes particulars of training, experience, special qualifications, etc.

The employment situation in British Columbia for 1939/40 (as regards librarians) is as follows:

Unemployed librarians registered April, 1939	8	
Library school graduates 1938/39	6	
Total unemployed during 1939/40	14	
Appointments 1939/40	5	(2 of them 1938/39 graduates)
Unemployed librarians registered March 14, 1940	9	

For the past three years there has been practically no change in the number of unemployed - namely 7, 8, and 9 in April 1938, 1939, and 1940 respectively. As far as we know, only one student is attending library school this year, which greatly improves the chances of those already on the list for obtaining positions during the coming year.

In addition to the above, three librarians from other provinces have requested that they be put on record as wishing to obtain positions in British Columbia. Two of these are working full time. Their names have been included on the lists sent out from time to time.

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to thank those members of the Association who sent in names of unemployed librarians, or notified us of appointments made during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy B. Kelly, Chairman.

Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee reports that there has been no library legislation added to the statute books since the last conference.

The specific charge of this Committee was the preparation of a basis for Certification. The following recommendations are submitted for consideration:

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO "LIBRARIES ACT"
TO PROVIDE FOR CERTIFICATION OF LIBRARIANS

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1. There shall be a Board to be known as "Board for Certification of Librarians".

2. Such Board shall consist of four persons who shall be appointed

as follows:

(a) One member of the Public Library Commission.
(b) Superintendent of Education.
(c) Two persons appointed by and from the membership of the British Columbia Library Association.

3. (a) The member of the Public Library Commission shall be appointed from time to time and shall serve during his term of office.
(b) The first members appointed by the British Columbia Library Association shall be appointed for two and one years respectively, and thereafter the said British Columbia Library Association shall annually appoint one person for the term of two years.
(c) Any member of the Board shall be eligible for re-appointment.

4. The Board may appoint its own Chairman.

5. The Secretary of the Public Library Commission shall be the Secretary of the Board and shall keep all minutes of the meetings of the Board and shall be the custodian of all its records.

6. Should a vacancy occur upon the said Board an appointment shall be made by the body making the original appointment.

Suggested Amendments to "Libraries Act"

7. The Board shall have the power to establish grades of certificates for librarians, to prescribe and hold examinations, or require submission of credentials to establish the qualifications of those seeking certificates as librarians and to issue certificates of librarianship to qualified persons in accordance with such rules and regulations as it may prescribe.

8. The Board shall have power to prescribe rules and regulations for the certification of librarians, which said rules and regulations shall become effective upon the publication in the Gazette.

9. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Smith, Chairman.

Membership Committee: The committee reports that the individual membership for 1939/40 reached a total of 90, as compared with 88 for 1938/39.

A special effort was made this year to contact delinquent members in an attempt to gain their reinstatement. Special attention was also given to school librarians in elementary schools in Vancouver.

Statistics for 1939/40 are as follows:

	Individual members	Institutional members
Members in good standing	90	8
New members	8	
Reinstated	8	
Delinquents	14	1

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Berry, Chairman.

Publicity Committee: The Publicity Committee reports that its work during the year has been almost entirely confined to two fields - the Bulletin and radio.

Three numbers of the Bulletin were issued, in September, January and April. The Committee tried to cover the library field in British Columbia as thoroughly as possible by including, in addition to official B.C.L.A. news, reports from individual libraries on activities which they considered might be of interest to other librarians.

The radio programs were planned originally to cover all types of library service in B.C. in ten broadcasts, which were to start early in February. But owing to the sudden Dominion election the series was cancelled by the studio. When the election was over, successful application was made to CJOR for time for six broadcasts, the hour assigned being 7:30 - 7:45 on Tuesday evenings, beginning April 9th.

Although the series is being broadcasted from Vancouver, it is a cooperative effort since each script has been prepared in a different library.

Respectfully submitted,
Bessie Greenwood, Chairman.

ANNUAL MEETING The programme for the Annual conference to be held in Victoria on Monday, May 13th is as follows:

Morning Session
- Registration 9 - 9.30
- Roll call of libraries
- Reports
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Auditing Committee
  - Discussion of reports of standing committees (These are included in the Bulletin in order that members may read them and then be prepared to discuss them at the meeting)

Morning Session (contin.)
Presidents remarks
Unfinished business
New business

Afternoon Session
Registration 2 - 2.30
Address: "Why and how should Librarians associate."
- Mr. John Richards,
University of Washington Library.
Discussion.
Report of Resolutions Committee
Report of Nominating Committee
Installation of new executive.

Evening Session 7.30 p.m.
Dinner at Empress Hotel
Entertainment to follow.

The Secretary sends the following information about fares to Victoria.

Leaving Vancouver Friday midnight, or later, returning from Victoria not later than Monday midnight, return fare $3.15.

If any considerable number of the members from the Mainland wish to remain longer on the Island, similar low rates may be obtained provided that at least ten members leave Vancouver at the same time. Return tickets, price $3.35, will be issued to parties of not less than ten persons, good for 16 days. The party must come to Victoria as a group, but may return to Vancouver singly at their own convenience. If fifteen persons or more are in the group, the rate is $3.15.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Prince George calling.
The uncommunicative spirit in this field of library activities is regrettable; but we will hope that silence has been golden.

The usual activities of sending out traveling libraries to communities, collections to the schools, small three-quarters-of-the-year loans to trappers and others who find their lots in lonely places, and short-term loans to individual borrowers were extended something over two years ago to include work with organized communities.

Quesnel already had a Public Library Association. Hope of assistance from a larger and more stable organization encouraged Prince George and Smithers to form Public Library Associations and establish the nuclei of libraries. The Public Library Commission stands behind these organizations to give what actual and moral support is needed and desirable in general management and lends them collections of books equal in number to the dollars spent by them on new books during the year. This loan is exchangeable every four months. The associations also participate in an inter-library loan which takes

place every four months giving each association access to the books of the other two.

All work carried on by the associations is done voluntarily and those who have taken an active interest in keeping alive this possibility for book service within their communities should experience deep satisfaction.

This year expansion is being made in school library activities. It is difficult to realize the setting for the great majority of the children in this vast but thinly populated north until one has visited the schools and driven along the roads that wind for miles through uninhabited land. A school district may provide one store containing a post-office wicket, and no other public building. No window displays, no bill boards with their changing advertisements, no movie poster, few pictures. Small library collections lend a little variety but this was not satisfying and a possibility for larger service presented itself. The books owned by the schools remain there year in and year out while children pass from grade 1 through all the intervening grades to 8 or 9. There is no doubt but that they lose their appeal. These books transplanted to another school for a term would bring freshness and reading opportunities.

A plan was conceived for cooperation between the school libraries and the Public Library Commission whereby the schools would send in their books to the Commission branch where they would be catalogued as a separate collection but used with Commission books for distribution to the schools as they needed them. The schools would have access to each other's books, needless duplication would be avoided and freshness would arouse interest in book reading.

This would be a large enterprise and not without its difficulties. The Public Library Commission and Department of Education both expressed willingness for the plan to be tested and an experiment is being carried on this year with these schools of which the inspector Mr. C.J. Frederickson is official trustee. Thirteen schools sent in all but their text-books and books sent out by the Department of Education. Each teacher also sent a list of requests and a list of books for purchase to the value of approximately twenty dollars. The purchasing lists were examined by the inspector and the librarian before the books were ordered. All books were catalogued and redistributed with the current needs of each school in mind and augumented by books from the Public Library Commission. Additional books may be borrowed for periods of six weeks during the year.

13 schools sent in 322 volumes in the fall and 216 volumes were purchased from school funds; 1041 books were sent out in the new 13 school libraries. As the collection grows the schools will have access to a greater number and variety of books according to their needs.

Questionnaires have been sent out by Mr. Frederickson to each teacher to discover the value of this experiment, and obtain criticism of weaknesses with suggestions for improvement. If the replies are

favorable it is likely that the experiment will extend to include those schools in the west of which Mr. Stafford is the official trustee.

A central depot housing all books and in which they will be supervised and distributed annually for use in rural one or two room schools seems to offer an improvement in library service to schools and a greater possibility of creating reading interest. We hope the experiment will prove successful leading to the carrying out of the complete project, that is the inclusion of all rural one or two room schools in this district.

FRASER VALLEY UNION LIBRARY

Library service to Langley was finally discontinued at the end of March, but although there will be a library black-out in that municipality for the next nine months at least, its situation is far from hopeless.

Following the adverse vote at the December election, which was generally acknowledged to be far from an accurate indication of public opinion, the Langley Library Committee circulated a petition which was signed by almost a third of the resident electors, asking for immediate renewal of the library connection. Without a full majority, the Municipal Council did not feel warranted to enter into a new agreement with the union library district, but it was immediately agreed to put the question again to the vote at the next municipal election, to be held in December. In the meantime, some three thousand Langley readers are feeling pretty sorry for themselves, and not very pleased with certain "hardheaded" -- wooden-headed? -- taxpayers.

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

A recent statistical survey of staff activities reveals considerable agility, versatility and intelligibility. The largest group activity is that of collecting. Three members collect stamps; four, prints; three, gramophone records; and all collect fines. The sports group is next in size. Two members ride, one regularly, the other irregularly, -- the former stays on, the latter doesn't always. Two play badminton, one wrestles, and three walk to work in the morning. One is a crack shot and another broadcasts sports events. Four are musical. One plays the violin, one the piano, two play the recorder, but no one has ever heard them, so this may be only hearsay. Three are taking courses in public speaking with appropriate gestures, and how to drink a glass of water on the platform. Two are studying motor mechanics, and are to be heard humming beneath the voice: "A tisket, a tasket, I've lost a little gasket". One has taken a course in first aid, but the rest of us would rather be left where we fall. One writes what she calls poetry, and the rest of us are literary critics. One acts in what are politely called drawing-room comedies. One is known as a gracious hostess, her mid-season fish and chips party was a charming affair. Divide the above total by the number of staff members, 20, and you have the average number of activities per person, per trick. The rest of us relax in the evening with a GOOD book.

NELSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Margaret Hincks of the Nelson Public Library reports: "It will no doubt get very stale to other people elsewhere, but our radio programmes continue to be a vital interest. In fact, I feel that the coming of the station CKLN last July has done a great deal in livening up the entire attitude of the town, especially as the very alert manager, Mr. Lethbridge, is very decidedly in favour of conveying any good music possible to this somewhat cut-off audience. The result has been an increasing interest in music and musicians. All to the good and badly needed.

While I cannot claim to my own satisfaction that our radio programmes have greatly increased the circulation (as I had foolishly hoped) it has made us known to far more people than ever thought of us before, and far more apparently listen to the programme than think of following it up into the library. Many half-hearted patrons have returned on the strength of the book they heard reviewed, but I fancy equally easily drift away again when they find they can't have the very-latest-and-hottest-off-the-press, or at any rate, not at that particular minute when they elect to appear. We expect to continue the weekly broadcast until the end of June.

The only other thing is that I am going over to Rossland next week to talk to their P.T.A. about children's books. They have a new library endeavour with, I understand, no children's books at all."

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

On March 10th, at three o'clock, a free, public symposium was held under the auspices of the Adult Education Committee of the Vancouver Public Library. The Unitarian Church, as in the past, kindly allowed the free use of its building. A new form of panel was worked out and proved successful. The subject was, "Reconstruction after the War". Prof. F.H. Soward gave the main talk; he was afterwards questioned by Dr. A.F.B. Clark, Professor of French, Prof. J.A. Irving, Professor of Philosophy and Rev. S.T. Pagesmith. Later the audience took part in the discussion which, finally, because of the lateness of the hour, had to be closed with many unanswered questions. The church was crowded to capacity.

UNIVERSITY OF B.C.

Congratulations are in order to Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, who on Sept. 1 will take over the administration of the University of B.C. Library. No fitter choice -- certainly none more popular in the library profession -- could have been made. Since joining the library ranks in 1933, Dr. Lamb has entrenched himself solidly with his associates everywhere. Major alterations in the administration of the Provincial Library, the work of the Commission and in the Archives have shown him to have those qualities of good sense and organizing ability which will carry him far in the library field.

He is coming to one of the outstanding libraries in Western Canada -- indeed in all Canada -- and his career will be watched

with interest by all. The best wishes of the B C L A are extended to him and congratulations to the University in securing his services.

JOHN RIDINGTON

A personal appreciation.

It is twenty-five years now since John Ridington took the hand of the toddling baby known as the University of British Columbia Library. His story of those first years is amusing and enlightening. The books were in boxes and sadly needed arranging on the shelves. John got the job. He would have been unpacking books yet if he had not been John Ridington. A course at Albany Library School gave him the technical knowledge to organize the library. A newspaper career and a course in the school of hard knocks including teaching and publicity work gave him his background.

By heritage and predilection he has been closely allied to the arts throughout his career. No mean painter himself, he has some standing as a critic of both art and music. As a public speaker John has always been popular, his wide vocabulary and ready allusion to both English prose and poetry giving him a wealth of background so often found lacking today. As a raconteur he has few equals in Canada and to have spent an evening in his company when in a reminiscent mood is an experience not likely to be forgotten.

Liberal in politics but not always politic in his liberalism, John never hesitated when a choice had to be made between principles and politics. The former always won, often to his personal injury and always to his discredit in the political field. He could never be accused of timidity, especially when the welfare of his chosen profession was at stake and with one possible exception no voice in Canada has sounded so consistently and so insistently the cry of progress in the library world.

He painted his canvas with broad strokes. When others were worrying over petty details and local squabbles, John Ridington saw their possible solution to be in national organization. That two attempts to accomplish this failed is not to his discredit. He seems to have been born thirty years too soon. When the Canadian Library Association is formed it will owe much to him whether it takes the shape he planned for it or another.

Charitable to a fault, always ready to see his opponent's viewpoint but never prepared to yield an inch from the position which he considered to be right, John Ridington has carved a place for himself in the rough foundations of Canadian librarianship which will not soon be obliterated. The truly magnificent structure standing on Point Grey overlooking the snowclad peaks of the Coast Range would be ample monument for most, but John's real memorial is that unseen something which is treasured only in the hearts of his fellow workers.

The members of the B C L A and all his fellow workers join in wishing him many long, happy years of retirement -- which we know

will not be retirement but more activity -- years when he may live more intimately with the books he loves and find time to pursue his own leisured way. "Well done ----"

E.S.R.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Nearly 50 school librarians gathered for a sectional meeting on March 26 at the Convention of the B.C. Teachers' Federation. As the result of an enlightening discussion of problems being faced by the school librarian, several resolutions were passed. The Department of Education is to be urged to create a School Library Department under a qualified head. The Department of Education is also to be requested to make provision both for a periodic revision of the library lists in the Programme of Studies and for the compilation of a library handbook that would set up standards for uniform practices in all school libraries in the Province.

Miss Isabel McTavish, head of the Schools Department, Vancouver Public Library, spoke briefly on the experiment in cooperation between the Vancouver School Board and the Vancouver Public Library in supplying a Pool of books for the elementary school libraries.

The officers-elect for 1940-41 are:
President, Miss Margaret Rathie, Model School, Vancouver.
Secretary, Miss Evelyn Cruise, King George High School, Vancouver.

After the business meeting, Prof. Morrow of the Department of Commerce, U.B.C. gave a thought provoking address on The Bookman and the Librarian.

On March 27, the Boys' and Girls' Room of the Vancouver Public Library, at the invitation of the School Librarians, very graciously arranged a book display at the Convention in order to permit teachers as well as librarians to browse among the newer books. The Teachers' Federation owe Mrs. Ladler and her staff a very hearty vote of thanks not only for arranging a most excellent and varied exhibit but also for their generosity in being on hand to discuss the displays with the many interested teachers who gleaned so many valuable titles for future library orders that they will probably feel tempted to venture into flights of high finance to stretch meager book budgets.

WAR AND THE LIBRARY

The Co-ordinating Council for War Work and Civilian Services in Greater Vancouver has assigned War Service Libraries to the I.O.D.E. and to the Vancouver Public Library. The Staff Association of the latter had previously voted to help with such work.

The Library Committee of the Auxiliary Service Section consists of representatives of the I.O.D.E. and of the Public Library, the Y.M.C.A., the Canadian Legion and the Salvation Army. The I.O.D.E. has agreed to finance the project completely and has undertaken to

provide $1,000 for the calendar year 1940, of which $750 will be available for new books and $250 for equipment and supplies. The I.O.D.E. organized a book drive which, to date, has supplied a pool of 3,125 usable books. Magazines are gathered and distributed entirely by this organization; this is true also of small "gift", Penguin and paper-backed books.

The present library staff and two former members, a total of forty-two, have volunteered two hours work apiece each week. There is a general chairman and a "captain" for every day from Monday through Friday. An extremely simple form of classifying, cataloging and listing is used. Twenty per cent of each collection is non-fiction. To date the following libraries have been distributed:

R.C.A.F.	Hostess House	200
Seaforth Regiment		500

and four outposts have received libraries of 100, 5, 25, and 30 volumes respectively. Work is now progressing on 1000 volumes which the Y.M.C.A. will use in its new hut. Simplified instructions and a list for checking are enclosed for the custodian in charge of each library.

A room built in the basement of the Public Library serves as headquarters. It is adequately shelved, well lighted and has attractive white walls and a red floor. Equipment has been kept to a minimum but there are chairs, a book truck, a table, a desk and a typewriter.

It is hoped that every outpost in the district, as well as the larger centres, will eventually be supplied with books of a sort. Of course such work could and should be built up and extended as it was by the A.L.A. in the last war to include adequate book appropriations, special requests, reference, etc. Adult education should play a large part, too. Such service should extend far beyond the "comforts" basis. From the first day of the war it was highly organized in England.

RADIO PUBLICITY

The series of broadcasts originally scheduled to start in February and postponed by the radio station were finally begun on April 9th. Owing to the long delay it was necessary to reduce the number of programs from ten to six. They are being broadcast from CJOR on Tuesday evenings at 6.30. Unfortunately the hour, which for the first three broadcasts was 7.30 was then changed to 6.30 due to the general shift of network programs caused by daylight saving.

The series is as follows:

April 9 - The Public Library (general) prepared by the Victoria Public Library.

April 16 - The Public Library (special departments) Mr. E.S. Robinson interviewed by Mr. Frank Skipper.

April 23 - Union Libraries. Mr. C.K. Morison interviewed by Miss Jessie Robertson.

April 30 - Open Shelf and travelling libraries. Dr. W.K. Lamb interviewed by Miss Anne Smith.

May 7 - University Library. Mr. J. Ridington interviewed by Miss Anne Berry.

May 14. - School libraries. Discussion by Miss M.E. Colman, Miss I. McTavish and Mr. Walter Lanning.

CHECK LIST

The recent publication of the Provincial library and archives: "Publications of the Government of British Columbia 1871-1937, a checklist" by Sydney M. Weston is here reviewed by Anne M. Smith, Reference Librarian, University of British Columbia.

This checklist has more than justified expectations. According to the Prefatory note it "includes all known official documents published by the Government of the Province of British Columbia from the time it entered into Confederation, in 1871, to 1937".

A simple system of arrangement is used - Executive publications, Departments in alphabetical order, Boards, commissions, etc, followed by a brief index and a chart showing the organization of the government. Each chapter is introduced by a description of the history, organization and function of the department under discussion. Under the department and branch the serials are followed by separates listed alphabetically.

Mr. Weston has departed from customary library procedure in several respects. To anyone familiar with the idiosyncrasies of British Columbia government publications, his method - giving author, title, date, paging and edition for every bulletin in a series - will seem the only completely satisfactory solution.

The physical make-up of the volume demands special recognition. Variation in size and kind of type, generous use of running titles, and excellent spacing make this one of the easiest of tools to use.

To Dr. Lamb, Librarian, and Mr. Sydney Weston, Documents Clerk, librarians and students interested in British Columbia documents are indebted for a valuable reference aid which is kept up to date in the Ontario library review. If, and when, the other provinces produce checklists of equal merit, the field of Canadian provincial publications will be well covered.

LIBRARIANS AS AUTHORS — In the P.N.L.A. quarterly for January 1940 there were articles by two British Columbia librarians:

"German periodicals and Canadian censorship: an interim report" by R.J. Lanning of the U.B.C. Library.

"School library work in Vancouver, B.C." by Miss Isabel McTavish of the Vancouver Public Library.

PERSONAL NOTES — Harvey: Miss Mary Harvey, formerly Assistant Cataloguer of the Provincial Library, has been appointed Cataloguer, as from April 1st.

Lort: Mr. Jack Lort, a recent graduate of the University of Washington Library School has been appointed Documents Clerk, of the Provincial Library.

Weston: Mr. Sydney Weston, Documents Clerk of the Provincial Library, resigned at the end of March with a view to joining the R.C.A.F. He was presented with a travelling bag by members of the staff of the Provincial Library and Public Library Commission at the farewell party held in his honor on March 29.

Wilson: Miss Georgiana Wilson has been appointed Assistant Cataloguer for the Provincial Library and Public Library Commission.

Vancouver Public Library,
Vancouver, B.C.